

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing a receiver, comprising the steps of:
selectively converting a first communications channel to a
5 second communications channel;
transmitting data over the second communications channel to a
communications unit, wherein the data includes an information header;
reading at least a portion of the information header transmitted
over the second communications channel; and
10 in response to said reading step, selectively deactivating a
receiver of the communications unit.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information
header includes a channel indicator and said selectively converting step
15 comprises the step of selectively converting the first communications channel
to the second communications channel by setting the channel indicator to a
predetermined value.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said selectively
20 deactivating step further comprises selectively deactivating the receiver of the
communications unit when the channel indicator is set to the predetermined
value.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the information header further includes an override indicator and said selectively deactivating step further comprises selectively deactivating the receiver of the communications unit when the channel indicator is set to the predetermined value and when the override indicator indicates that no override condition exists.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of reactivating the receiver of the communications unit in response to a reactivating event.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said selectively deactivating step is performed in a first cell and wherein the reactivating event is the communications unit entering a second cell.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the information header includes a channel indicator and wherein the reactivating event is the channel indicator being set to a predetermined value to indicate that the second communications channel has been converted back to the first communications channel.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein the information header includes an override indicator and the reactivating event is the

override indicator being set to a predetermined value that indicates that an override condition exists.

9. The method according to claim 5, wherein the reactivating event
5 is a call being terminated.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data further
includes a payload section and said method further comprises the step of,
following said selectively deactivating step, ignoring the payload section of the
10 data.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the payload section
includes operating information of at least one neighboring cell.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first
15 communications channel is a traffic channel and the second communications
channel is a temporary control channel, both the traffic channel and the
temporary control channel being employed in a trunked dispatch service.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first
20 communications channel and the second communications channel employ
time division multiple access as a transport mechanism and wherein the
information header is a slot descriptor block.

14. A system for managing a receiver, comprising:
at least one base station; and
an application processor, wherein said application processor
instructs said base station to convert the first communications channel to a
5 second communications channel and to transmit data over the second
communications channel to a communications unit having a receiver, wherein
the data includes an information header;
wherein the communications unit reads at least a portion of the
information header transmitted over the second communications channel and
10 in response, selectively deactivates the receiver.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the information
header includes a channel indicator and said application processor further
instructs said base station to convert the first communications channel to the
15 second communications channel by setting the channel indicator to a
predetermined value.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the communications
unit selectively deactivates the receiver when the channel indicator is set to
20 the predetermined value.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the information
header further includes an override indicator and wherein the communications
unit selectively deactivates the receiver when the channel indicator is set to

the predetermined value and when the override indicator indicates that no override condition exists.

18. The system according to claim 14, wherein the communications
5 unit reactivates the receiver in response to a reactivating event.

19. The system according to 18, wherein the communications unit selectively deactivates the receiver in a first cell and wherein the reactivating event is the communications unit entering a second cell.

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20. The system according to claim 18, wherein the information header includes a channel indicator and wherein the reactivating event is when said base station sets the channel indicator to a predetermined value to indicate that the second communications channel has been converted back to
15 the first communications channel.

21. The system according to claim 18, wherein the information header includes an override indicator and the reactivating event is said base station setting the override indicator to a predetermined value that indicates
20 that an override condition exists.

22. The system according to claim 18, wherein the reactivating event is said base station terminating a call on said system.